

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated December 16, 2003. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1 – 8, 11, 15 – 17 and 22 and 23 remain in the application. Claim 1 is the independent claim. The amendments are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's time in conducting an interview with Applicant's attorney with respect to the present application and response. Further to that interview, Applicant has amended the claims to include subject matter that they believe the Examiner stated would be allowable.

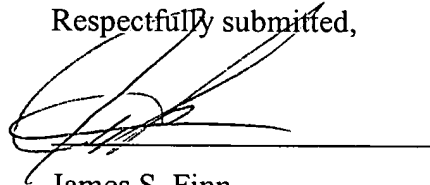
### CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

If the Examiner believes, for any reasons, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the following number: 202-607-4607.

The USPTO is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 502697 any fees associated with this response including the petition for the one month extension.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Finn', is written over a horizontal line.

James S. Finn  
Reg. No. 38,450

8650 Southwestern Blvd. #2825  
Dallas, Texas 75206-2688  
202/607-4607